

Helping Parents "Get" Montessori

Action Guide



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A Kids Talk Webinar
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Today's Goals:

Goal # 1: How to attract the _____ people

Goal # 2: How to create _____

Goal # 3: How my online parent support program, *Seeing Your Child The Montessori Way*, can help you _____ community

Goal # 1: Attracting the _____ people

The right people have these _____:

- *Appreciative* of what their school offers
- *Are knowledgeable* about Montessori ideas
- *Understand* children's limits and abilities
- *Are supportive* of our Montessori teaching mission
- *Use direct communication* in open and honest ways
- *Are interested in building community*
- *Are willing to problem solve* with us when necessary, and
- *Are willing to be partners* in their children's development and education.

How do we attract people with these qualities?

1. Offer a _____ Montessori Program.

A quality Montessori program offers:

- Adults who are professionally trained in Montessori principles, materials and methods for the age level they are teaching.
- Montessori prepared environments based on three to four year age groups using the Dr. Montessori's planes of development as a guideline.
- Children's free choice of activity within a protected three-hour work period or cycle.

If you want to attract _____ families, offer a _____ program.

2. Have a clear _____ of what you want your school to be.

Use a visioning process:

Ask staff: What do you want our school to be?

- Talk through the physical details
- How do people treat each other?
- What problem-solving strategies do you use?

What rules or guidelines do we need to realize our vision?

If our guidelines are not being followed, what do we do?

Create a working document to review monthly.

3. Uncover _____ words as you go through the visioning process.

Behavior we see in “difficult” people:

- They act entitled.
- They are habitually late—with the bigger issue that they think the school rules don’t apply to them.
- They spread gossip, falsehood and innuendo about the folks in your school community.
- They lack commitment to your school, much less to the idea of Montessori education.
- They seem uninformed about good parenting skills, and seem disinterested in learning about how to be a better.
- They may appear unhappy, with unresolved personal issues.
- They may interact with us in demanding, angry, blaming, and sarcastic ways.

4. Pre-qualify your families

Use _____ words to attract the right families.

Require participation _____ offering them a place in our school community.

Have _____ expectations.

Have _____ expectations and requirements for participation before you enroll families into your school.

For example:

- Attend informational meetings
- Observe in a classroom
- Require involvement from all parents (divorced and step parents)

Put your ideas here:

Goal # 2: How to _____ community

When we choose to have upfront _____ with our school community members that speak with clarity about our expectations and requirements for participation, we get what we _____.

1. Attract the right people by offering:

_____ vision

_____ words

_____ expectations and requirements

Our staff members embody our _____ of what we want our school to be.

2. Choose staff members _____.

3. Expect and require parent _____.

Expecting and requiring parent _____ makes for a stronger community.

Goal # 3: How my parent support program _____

On-demand online video based course.

_____ weekly sessions about 50 minutes each

Each session divided into _____ segments

Each activity segment offered as a video, transcript or audio file.

_____ hours of professional development offered.

Offered as a year-long _____.

Participants can ask me a question in the course or email me _____ for a private answer.

Parents tell me that they like going at their own pace and having all this information as a trusted resource instead of having to surf the internet.

Here is how you'll benefit from this program:

- Accessibility
- A Consistent Message
- Overall Design
- Simplicity
- Community Building
- Follow-Up
- A Guided Tour
- Savings
- Value
- Ease of Implementation

Questions?

Email maren@marenschmidt.com or call me at 503.550.3143 Hawaiian Time.

For more information visit: <http://marenschmidt.com/workshops/parent-support-program/schools/>

Key Words To Attract The Right Families

- *Appreciative* of what their school offers
- *Are knowledgeable* about Montessori ideas
- *Understand* children's limits and abilities
- *Are supportive* of our Montessori teaching mission
- *Use direct communication* in open and honest ways
- *Are interested in building community*
- *Are willing to problem solve* with us when necessary, and
- *Are willing to be partners* in their children's development and education

Message Using Key Words

We are a thriving community of children, parents, and staff working individually and together to be:

- Responsible
- Independent
- Respectful
- Loving
- Compassionate
- Enthusiastic, and
- A vital part of our families and our community, as well as the larger world

Stating Expectations

We expect our families:

- to be involved with their children.
- to take the time to find out important information about their children and their school community.
- to want to learn how our school will make a difference in their family's life.
- to pay on time,
- to get to school on time,
- to understand children's sleep and nutrition requirements,
- to be the adult in the relationship with their child, and
- to understand and use key Montessori concepts like freedom within limits, any unnecessary help is a hindrance, respect for the work of the child, and more.